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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,708	09/27/2005	Mitsuru Kodama	270750US90PCT	3742
22850	7590	12/15/2006	EXAMINER	
C. IRVIN MCCLELLAND OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			ARANI, TAGHI T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2131	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/531,708

Applicant(s)

KODAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Taghi T. Arani

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/18/2006, 7/21/2006.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Taghi T. Arani
Ph.D. Examiner
Taghi T. Arani

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-8 have been examined and are pending

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Us 5,748,736 to Mittra (IDS filed 4/18/2005).

As per claims 1 and 8, Mittra teaches a communication system and a transfer device comprising:

an information providing unit configured to provide information data; an information providing-side network configured to connect the information providing unit (Fig. 3 and associated text, col. 7, lines 28-43) and be restricted access (col. 7, lines 45-56); an information transmitter configured to obtain the information data by transmitting request data (i.e. join request) for requesting the information data to the information providing unit (col. 13, lines 37-56, col. 7, lines 41-43), and transmit obtained information data to a terminal (col. 12, lines 35-38 and lines 50-54); an information transmitting-side network configured to connect the information transmitter and be restricted access (Fig. 3, col. 13, lines 29-36); and a transfer unit configured to connect the information transmitting-side network and the information providing-side network (Fig. 1 and associated text, i.e. a Group security controller (GSC11), determine whether or not transmitting-side data received via the information transmitting-side network is data transmitted

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from the information transmitter, and whether or not providing-side data received via the information providing-side network is data transmitted from the information providing unit, and transfer the transmitting-side data and the providing-side data based on determination results (col. 14, lines 1-22, col. 10, lines 62-67, col. 6, lines 52-55).

As per claim 2, Mitra teaches the communication system of claim 1, further comprising: a plurality of information providing-side networks, wherein the transfer unit connects the information transmitting-side network and the plurality of information providing-side networks (col. 4, lines 20-25).

As per claim 6, Mitra teaches the communication system of claim 1, wherein the information data is video data (col. 2, lines 2-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitra as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US patent 6,804,254 to Pearce et al. (hereinafter "Pearce").

As per claim 3 and 4, Mitra does not teach but Pearce teaches wherein the transfer unit converts an address attached to data transmitted to the information providing unit from the

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information transmitter, into a providing-side address, and converts an address attached to data transmitted to the information transmitter from the information providing unit, into a transmitting-side address (Pearce, Fig. 3 and associated text, col. 8, lines 29-62, where a virtual device 28 examines packets and converts the attached address (i.e. a source address) of the transmitting side to the address of the virtual device (i.e. common address as recited in claim 4). Then the virtual device forwards the packet to the receiving side. In Pearce, a similar process is performed when the transmitting side device returns an RTP media stream to the receiving side device (col. 8, lines 45-62)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the teachings of Pearce in the method and system of Mittra to allow Mittra's Group Security Controller (GSC) to convert the attached address of the providing-side and transmitting-side networks to a common address corresponding to the transmitting-side and the providing-side networks for many reasons including facilitating integration of IP networks and non-IP networks (Pearce, col. 1, lines 25-44, see also col. 9, lines 1-6).

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mittra as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of JP 11239163 A.

As per claim 5, Mittra does not teach but JP Pub. 11239163A discloses wherein the transfer unit memorizes a threshold value for an amount of the information data from the information providing unit for transfer at once, compares the threshold value with an amount of the information data received from the information providing unit via the information providing-side network, and controls transfer of the transmitting-side data and the providing-side data based on a comparison result (Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to employ the teachings disclosed in JP Pub. 11239163A within the method and system of Mittra to memorize a threshold value for an amount of the information data from the information providing unit for transfer at once, compares the threshold value with an amount of the information data received from the information providing unit via the information providing-side network, and controls transfer of the transmitting-side data and the providing-side data based on a comparison result to increase receiving capability of end node and to reduce the processing load .

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mittra as applied to claim1 above, and further in view of below.

As per claim 7, while Mittra teaches secure multicast by setting up a separate secure channel with the GSC of the group, however, Mittra does not specifically teaches wherein at least one of the information providing-side network and the information transmitting-side network is a virtual private network.

However, the examiner asserts that secure communication channel using VPN is old and well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the VPN in the Mittra's secure multicast group to facilitate confidential communication between the group member and the group security controller (GSC).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taghi T. Arani whose telephone number is (571) 272-3787. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 Mon-Fri.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Taghi T. Arani, Ph.D.

Primary Examiner

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12/06/2006